

IN THE SPECIFICATION

[0001] The present application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application 10/425,267 (filed April 29, 2003) entitled "Wedge Plate Inserter/Impactor and Related Methods for use in Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc", which is a continuing continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application 10/282,356 (filed October 29, 2002) entitled "Instrumentation and Methods For Use In Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc", which is a continuing continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/256,160 (filed September 26, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post", which is a continuing continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/175,417 (filed June 19, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Utilizing a Ball Joint Coupling", which is a continuing continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/151,280 (filed May 20, 2002) entitled "Tension Bearing Artificial Disc Providing a Centroid of Motion Centrally Located Within an Intervertebral Space", which is a continuing continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479 (filed October 4, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Spirally Slotted Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,730 ("the '730 patent") as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/140,153 (filed May 7, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", the former being a continuing continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/968,046 (filed October 1, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves", now abandoned and the latter being a

~~continuing continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479 the '730 patent~~ (detailed above) as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/128,619 (filed April 23, 2002) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", which is a ~~continuing continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/906,119 (filed July 16, 2001) and entitled "Trial Intervertebral Distraction Spacers", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,607,559 ("the '559 patent") as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/982,148 (filed October 18, 2001) and entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Having Arch Shaped Spring Elements", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,673,113 ("the '113 patent")~~. All of the above mentioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their respective entireties.

[0014] Figs. 2a-~~ed~~ show side (Fig. 2a), perspective (Fig. 2b), and close-up perspective (Fig. 2c) views of a wedge plate inserter/impactor of the present invention, including a partial cross-section view of a knob coupled to a shaft of the wedge plate inserter/impactor.